

RHODORA, 28: 68. The present writer was for a number of years active in trail work on Higby Mountain and other trap ridges in central Connecticut, and as an amateur botanist became fairly familiar with the plants on them. In or about 1932, while working on the Mattabessett Trail on Lamentation Mountain, which is the next ridge north of Higby Mountain and which lies partly in the towns of Meriden, Berlin, and Middletown, but chiefly in Meriden, he discovered a specimen of the plant. This fact was noted in his flower-book and mentioned to Mr. Arthur E. Blewitt of Waterbury, Connecticut. Subsequent search for the plant was unsuccessful until April 28, 1946, when it was rediscovered by the writer when on a hike of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. It was found in several places, but especially in a large patch near the south end of the main ridge at an elevation of about 720 ft. Unlike *C. sempervirens*, which grows on and about exposed ledges and blossoms all summer and which grows in this same area, *C. flavula* is found in rich leaf-mold in the woods, which grow quite close to the edge of the escarpment. The plant is weak and sprawling and its blossoming period is from April into June. As its name indicates, the flowers are pale yellow. The species is only sparingly found in New York State. The counties listed for it in House's Annotated List of the Ferns and Flowering Plants of New York State are Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Westchester, and Rockland. It has also been found on Manhasset Neck, Long Island.—FREDERICK W. KILBOURNE, Cheshire, Connecticut.

DOES BARTONIA VERNA GROW IN VIRGINIA?—In 1803 Michaux described and illustrated his *CENTAURELLA VERNA* Michx. Fl. Bor.-Am. i. 98, t. 12, fig. 2 (1803), from sphagnous habitats in South Carolina (in sphagnosis Carolinae inferioris). In 1814 Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. i. 99 (1814), changed the name to *C. vernalis* and on p. 100 described *C. vernalis* β . *uniflora* "caule unifloro", giving for the two plants the range "In mossy swamps: Virginia to Georgia. \odot May-July . . . Var. β . *v. s.* in *Herb. Lyon.*" *Bartonia verna* (Michx.) Muhl., based on *Centaurella verna* Michx., has subsequently been regularly treated as coming north into Virginia. Nevertheless, painstaking search (always with

this "spook" in mind) through 14 seasons in hundreds of proper habitats in southeastern Virginia has failed to bring the plant to light, although *B. virginica* (L.) BSP. is there abundant and the often larger-flowered *B. paniculata* (Michx.) Muhl. especially so. In the Gray Herbarium the most northern definite station represented for *B. verna* is Wilmington in southeastern North Carolina. The flowering dates on the labels of *B. verna* range from December 26 (Florida) to April 3 (South Carolina), which would lead one to expect it in southeastern Virginia in late March and April. Small says "Winter-spring".

It is, consequently, significant that Pursh said for his *Centaurella vernalis* "May-July" and that he did not differentiate the very characteristic *C. paniculata* Michx. (*Bartonia paniculata* (Michx.) Muhl.) from *B. virginica* (L.) BSP. (*Sagina virginica* L., *Bartonia tenella* Muhl.), Pursh merging these two species as his *Centaurella autumnalis*. In view of the abundance "In mossy swamps" of southeastern Virginia of *Bartonia paniculata* and *B. virginica*, which begin flowering in July, it seems not improbable that Pursh's "July" and his Virginia record were not based on actual *B. verna*. If any actual evidence of the truly vernal *B. verna* in Virginia exists I shall welcome the information.—M. L. FERNALD.

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